



Christmas Season, 1956

Dear Katherine and Marguerite,

This will be only a short letter because I have many notes to write, and after we are back on regular schedule I shall write a longer letter.

We had a very happy Christmas here and we are especially happy over the new Altar that was donated. Mass was celebrated on it at midnight and we attended two Masses later in the morning. You and all our dear relatives were remembered. Our Archbishop said two of the Masses.

After breakfast we assembled in the Community room, which was beautifully decorated, and we received our mail and gifts. The letters and cards from you and all the relatives were read with much pleasure.

Katherine, besides your money gift, I also received a money gift from our friend, Jane and from your former landlady, Mrs. Nankivell. I shall write a note of thanks to both of them very soon. I shall also write a note to each of our nieces and their families and to Arnold and Harry and family

The Provincial of our Congregation is having a Novena of Masses said for all our living relatives and another Novena of Masses said for all our departed relatives. Also a Novena of Masses for our benefactors, which includes most of my relatives.

The weather here is ideal, cool, bright, crisp with some snow on the ground. Christmas Eve as I looked out of the window just before getting into bed, I noticed how bright were the stars and how big the moon seemed.

The letter that I am enclosing is from Sister Bernelle, Uncle Lyman's daughter. I think it is very interesting and I am sure you will enjoy it. The picture is of herself.

I am glad to know that one of those pictures that Alice took of me turned out well. I should like to have one of each picture snapped while she was here; will ^{you} ask Alice to send them if she can.

How is Tommy getting on without his curls and I hope that Maurice has recovered his status.

My health is very good and one of these days I and another sister are going out to buy our Sacred Heart badges, with our gift money.

Our students will not return until January 8th, so you see we are having a nice long vacation, but the sisters need that because they work hard and have heavy responsibilities, especially the instructors. Daily I marvel that the Superior, who is also the President of the College, can bear up under her great burden, but God supports her.

With this letter I enclose love and good wishes to you, Marguerite and Katherine and to all our relatives.

Sister Elise

Dec. 26, 1956

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J.M.J.
College of St. Catherine
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mon. Jan. 7th

Dear Katherine and Marguerite,

I just now returned from lunch and am settled here in Cecilian Hall for the afternoon. 'Tis the last day of vacation and the students are straggling in; the majority of them will come in this evening, though. School begins tomorrow at 8:30 A.M.

The housecleaning has been done, the floors waxed and everything is shining. The big thing now is to say, "Happy New Year" to each and every one as she arrives. The weather, too, is perfect for traveling, bright and cheery with a layer of clean snow.

According to your last letter, Katherine, you all had a Happy Christmas, and so did I. Everything was done by our Superior and her assistant to make us happy.

Thank you, for the picture you enclosed for me. I think that is the best that was ever taken, and I compliment Alice and her good camera.

I am glad that you enjoyed Sister Bernell's letter. The F.S.P.A. after her name stands for Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration. She is Uncle Lyman's daughter. The Sister Emeron that she mentioned, is Uncle Joe's daughter. She also belongs to a Franciscan Order, but of another branch. I think her Provincial House is in Illinois but Sister Bernell's Mother house is in LaCross, Wisconsin. I haven't received a letter from Sister Emeron for several years, so do not know just where she is missioned now. Father Ronan is her brother, and since his return from Service in France, is stationed at the Veteren's Hospital in Missouri.

I think I mentioned before that Sister Bernelle has Sixteen relatives in Canada who are religious of different orders. Isn't that wonderful? Most of them are on her mother's side. A few years ago she visited them.

Last week I sent in an order for my supply of Sacred Heart badges and the discs for encasing them..The dollar you gave me with the two from Jane, the one from Mrs. Mankivell and one from Elizabeth Cwinski made up the five dollars necessary.

Last week I mailed a note to Harry and to each of our nieces and nephews, and also to dear, little Alice Murphy, Helen's daughter, because she wrote me a very nice, long letter. I was surprised that one of her age could write such a matured letter with such good hand-writing.

I have not written to Frank for several weeks, so will try to get a few lines off to him today. I hope he is well.

Tuesday, Jan. 8th

It is much colder this evening, but I am very comfortable. The steam is on and all the lights and as I sit here at the hall desk, I have music while I type. Someone is practicing violin a few doors away.

The elevator repair man and the key repair man were here today. There is always something getting out of order.

The Sacred Heart badges and discs that I sent away for arrived this morning. Now I can proceed to make them up.

Our Superior is away at present and will not return for ten days. She and another sister from here are attending a College Convention.